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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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(When Filled In)

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL

COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT NO. TDCS-3/500,097

SUBJECT

COMMENTS OF

THE DESIRABILITY

DATE DISTR.: 28 JANUARY 1962

PROBLEMS AND CONSEQUENCES OF A COUP D'ETAT

PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO.

25 JANUARY 1962

-- TAYLOR

IN 18750

PLACE &

DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (26 JANUARY 1962)

-- KAYSEN

-- BELK

REFERENCES

FIELD REPORT NO. FVS 7006

APPRaisal

-- R. JOHNSON

RETAIN OR DESTROY

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE

SOME OF THESE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE SOURCE

ON 25 JANUARY 1962, [REDACTED] OPPOSITION LEADER IMPRISONED

CERTAIN GENERAL OFFICERS HAVE CONSULTED WITH THEM ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTEMPTING A COUP D'ETAT. (FIELD COMMENT.)

[REDACTED] ESUCH A COUP WOULD BE TO PREVENT THE COUNTRY FROM FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS (VC). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH THESE GENERALS IN PRINCIPLE ON THE NECESSITY FOR A COUP D'ETAT, BUT WAS WORRIED BOTH ABOUT THE METHOD TO BE EMPLOYED AND THE CONSEQUENCES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT CERTAIN POLITICALLY RELIGIOUS GROUPS WISHED TO MOUNT A

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STATE	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC	USA	OCI	ONE	OCR	ORR	CO	DIA	EXO
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A COUP WITH THE SUPPORT OF MILITARY ELEMENTS. HOWEVER, THESE GROUPS WERE TOO DIVIDED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. [REDACTED] THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL COUP WOULD BE ONE MOUNTED BY THE ARMY ITSELF. (FIELD COMMENT.)

[REDACTED]

5. SPEAKING IN GENERAL TERMS, [REDACTED] IN SETTING UP SUCH A COUP TWO THINGS WERE IMPORTANT: TO AVOID BLOODSHED, AND TO ORGANIZE AS SMALL A FORCE AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER NOT TO ALLOW THE

PLAN OF ACTION TO BE EXPLOITED BY THE VC. [REDACTED] SOLUTION WOULD BE

TO HAVE THE GENERAL OFFICERS DECLARE THE WHOLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM

TO BE IN A STATE OF SEIGE. THE TROOPS WOULD THEN BE FORBIDDEN

TO MOVE WITHOUT AN EXPRESS ORDER FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

AND ALL ROADS LEADING TO SAIGON WOULD BE GUARDED.

6. IN CASE THE COUP WERE SUCCESSFUL, REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

OF THREE GENERAL OFFICERS WOULD DIRECT EVERYDAY GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

WITH THE HELP OF TECHNICAL ADVISORS AND THE SECRETARIES OF

THE STATE, WHO WOULD HAVE REMAINED AT THEIR POSTS. DURING THIS PERIOD

THE PEOPLE WOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE THE HEAD OF THE STATE.

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5. (FIELD COMMENT. [] TALKED TO SOURCE IN GENERAL TERMS. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THIS WAS BECAUSE OF RETICENCE ON [] PART IN RESPECT TO SOURCE, OR WHETHER [] IS NOT IN FACT INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED PLANNING OF GENERAL NGHIEM.)

6. FIELD DISEM. STATE MAAG USOM CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF.

END OF MESSAGE

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